Who Are the Newly Revealed Jeffrey Epstein Associates?

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Photo: Rick Friedman/Corbis via Getty Images

A multiple-part report from *The Wall Street Journal* has revealed a number of additional prominent

people who appear to have been associates of Jeffrey Epstein's. Their ties to the notorious sex trafficker and longtime high-society hobnobber were not previously known, having not appeared in Epstein's infamous black book or in the public flight logs of passengers who traveled aboard his private jet before his jailhouse death in 2019 while awaiting trial.

The *Journal* discovered the names after it obtained a previously unreported trove of documents, including thousands of emails and Epstein's private schedules dating from 2013 to 2017. This was all after Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting and procuring a minor for prostitution in Florida, and at least some of the time period was after Epstein was publicly accused of sex trafficking by victim Virginia Giuffre in 2015.

The schedules include details of numerous meetings Epstein planned and with whom — but the *Journal* notes that it could not verify whether all of the meetings actually took place. Many of the meetings took place at Epstein's Upper East Side townhouse, one of the locations where he is alleged to have sexually abused women and girls.

In 2019, *New York* published an exhaustive list of all of Epstein's alleged high-society contacts, according to public documents available at the time. Below, a look at the new names contained in the *Journal* report and what we know about how and why they were linked to him.

According to the documents, the longtime Israeli politician was a regular guest of Epstein's at his Upper East Side townhouse in the years from 2013 to 2017, meeting with the financier monthly for large stretches of that time. He also flew on Epstein's jet. Reached by the *Journal*, Barak acknowledged that he met with Epstein when visiting New York City and that Epstein "often brought other interesting persons, from art or culture, law or science, finance, diplomacy or philanthropy." He said he never met Epstein "with girls or minors, or even adult women in improper context or behavior,"

Epstein had roughly two dozen meetings scheduled with Botstein over the four years covered in the documents, mostly at his townhouse. Regarding his relationship with Epstein, Botstein told the *Journal* he was only interested in Epstein's money: "I was an unsuccessful fundraiser and actually the object of a little bit of sadism on his part in dangling philanthropic support."

Botstein said he first met with Epstein in 2012 to thank him for making unsolicited donations to the college's high schools, then he continued meeting with him to try to secure more. Epstein donated 66 laptops to Bard in 2015, according to the documents, and Botstein twice invited Epstein to musical performances at the college, but the longtime Bard president said he ultimately concluded that Epstein wasn't interested in making more donations and "he was simply stringing us along."

That Epstein was a convicted sex offender who had admitted to procuring a child for prostitution didn't dissuade Botstein and Bard from seeking his financial support. "We looked him up, and he was

a convicted felon for a sex crime," Botstein told the *Journal,* but "we believe in rehabilitation." He said they kept his criminal history in mind when Epstein visited the school: "Because of his previous record, we had security ready. He did not have any free access to anybody." According to the plans in the documents, Epstein brought some of his young female assistants on his trips to Bard.

The documents indicate that Epstein had three scheduled meetings in 2014 with Burns, who was at that point the deputy security of state in the Obama administration. They met both in Washington, D.C., and New York, per the *Journal*:

> A lunch was planned that August at the office of law firm Steptoe & Johnson in Washington. Epstein scheduled two evening appointments that September with Mr. Burns at his townhouse, the documents show. After one of the scheduled meetings, Epstein planned for his driver to take Mr. Burns to the airport.

The longtime diplomat left the State Department in October of that year and became president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he remained until President Biden nominated Burns to run the CIA in 2021.

CIA spokesperson Tammy Kupperman Thorp released a statement to the *Journal* denying Burns had any kind of relationship with Epstein: "The director did not know anything about him, other than that he was introduced as an expert in the financial services sector and offered general advice on transition to the private sector," she said. "They had no relationship."

According to the documents, Epstein arranged several meetings with Chomsky in 2015 and 2016, when he was teaching at MIT, where Epstein had donated hundreds of thousands of dollars. The scheduled meetings included a gatherings of academics as well as a flight with Epstein aboard his private jet to New York to have a dinner at his townhouse with film director Woody Allen and his wife, Soon-Yi Previn.

When the *Journal* asked Chomsky about the meetings, the 94-year-old replied in an email that his "first response is that it is none of your business. Or anyone's. Second is that I knew him and we met occasionally." Chomsky said he and Epstein discussed politics and academics, and "if there was a flight, which I doubt, it would have been from Boston to New York, 30 minutes. I'm unaware of the principle that requires that I inform you about an evening spent with a great artist."

"What was known about Jeffrey Epstein was that he had been convicted of a crime and had served his sentence," Chomsky told the *Journal*. "According to U.S. laws and norms, that yields a clean slate." He also said Epstein arranged for him to meet Barak so they could talk about "Israel's policies with regard to Palestinian issues and the international arena."

Rød-Larsen may not be a household name, but he's a big deal in diplomatic circles, having helped put together the landmark Oslo Accords in the early 1990s. Per the *Journal*, he was such a fixture at

Epstein's New York townhouse between 2013 and 2017 that the staff knew to have cucumbers ready for his gin. He also received a personal loan from Epstein, as well as a donation to his nonprofit.

The *Journal* reports that Epstein scheduled more than a dozen meetings over the four years with Ramo, who was at that point a co-CEO of Henry Kissinger's consulting company. Ramo also served on the board of Starbucks and still serves on the board of FedEx. Most of the meetings were scheduled in the evening at Epstein's Manhattan townhouse. Epstein also invited him to a 2013 breakfast at the townhouse that Barak attended.

Ramo didn't respond to the *Journal*'s requests to comment on the meetings.

In 2019, the private Swiss bank Edmond de Rothschild Group falsely claimed it and its chairwoman, Ariane de Rothschild, had no ties to Epstein. According to the documents reviewed by the *Journal*:

> Mrs. de Rothschild, who married into the famous banking family, had more than a dozen meetings with Epstein. He sought her help with staffing and furnishings as well as discussed business deals with her, according to the documents. In September 2013, Epstein asked Mrs. de Rothschild in an email for help finding a new assistant, "female ... multilingual, organized."
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> "I'll ask around," Mrs. de Rothschild emailed back.
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> She bought nearly $1 million worth of auction items on Epstein's behalf in 2014 and 2015, the documents show. Mrs. de Rothschild was named chairwoman of the bank in January 2015. That October, she and Epstein negotiated a $25 million contract for Epstein's Southern Trust Co. to provide "risk analysis and the application and use of certain algorithms" for the bank[.]

In a response to the *Journal*, the bank admitted that its 2019 statement was inaccurate and said that de Rothschild had business-related meetings with Epstein from 2013 to 2019, that he had introduced the bank to U.S. finance leaders, provided tax and risk consulting, and had recommended law firms. The bank also said that Epstein "solicited her personally on a couple occasions for advice and services on estate management" and that she "was similarly unaware of any questions regarding his personal conduct" at the time.

The documents reveal that Epstein scheduled more than three dozen meetings with Ruemmler, starting in 2014, after she left the White House counsel's office and joined the private sector as a partner at the law firm Latham & Watkins. Epstein also scheduled her to fly with him to Paris in 2015 and to his now-notorious island estate in the U.S. Virgin Islands, he looked at apartments she was interested in, and he discussed with his staff whether the young women working at his Manhattan townhouse would make Ruemmler uncomfortable.

In 2020, Ruemmler took a job as a top lawyer at the Goldman Sachs Group, where she co-chairs the firm's reputational-risk advisory committee. A Goldman spokesperson told the *Journal* that

Ruemmler's relationship with Epstein was professional and related to her work at Latham & Watkins:

> In the normal course, Epstein also invited her to meetings and social gatherings, introduced her to other business contacts and made referrals. It was the same kinds of contacts and engagements she had with other contacts and clients.

The spokesperson also said that Ruemmler never noticed anything untoward at his townhouse, that she never flew anywhere with him, that she never visited his island, and that her comment was "I regret ever knowing Jeffrey Epstein."

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